

Weekly Weather Crop Report

Week Ending: March 17, 1996

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending March 17, 1996. The main farming activities for the week included planting corn and land preparation for cotton planting. Wheat conditions have declined because of last week's low temperatures. Pastures have made some recovery, but need some warm weather. Hay is critically short in most areas of the state. Hay supplies were 85 percent short, 14 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus. Feed grains were 38 percent short, 59 percent adequate and 3 percent surplus. Soil moisture conditions were rated 1 percent very short, 3 percent short, 77 percent adequate and 19 percent surplus.

Progress in Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	1995	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	21	8	4	7	---	---	---	---	---
Wheat	Jointing	45	22	48	30	6	15	43	35	1
Watermelons	Planted	5	---	0	4	---	---	---	---	---
Cattle						5	17	41	31	6
Pasture						14	29	38	17	2

County Agent Comments

"Corn acreage has exploded in Bolivar county from 1,300 acres to well over 5,000 acres. Wheat showed lots of damage from last week's record low temperatures."

-- Don Respass, Bolivar County

"Early spring field tillage has started in most areas of the county. A good number of corn acres will be planted as soon as fields dry. Hay is critically short. Grain prices are too high to supplement cattle feeding."

-- Mike Howell, Calhoun County

"This has been a very difficult winter for livestock producers -- low prices, high feed costs, and short hay supplies. Pastures have made some recovery, but need some warm weather. Very little activity in land preparation."

-- Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss County

"Farmers are getting ready for spring planting. Cotton farmers' minds are on the boll weevil eradication program."

-- Tim Needham, Tippah County

"Planting is going well. Cotton ground is being prepared and fertilizer put out."

-- Thomas T. Baird, Sunflower County

"Last week, we saw some land preparation on well-drained, sandy soils in Chickasaw county."

-- Charles Fitts, Chickasaw County

"Corn planting is off to a good start. Wheat was hurt with the recent cold temperature. Some heads have turned brown. Yield loss is estimated at about 20 percent."

-- Dennis B. Reginelli, Noxubee County

"Ryegrass fields are showing severe winter burn injury from last weekend's cold temperatures. Some producers are now totally out of hay."

-- Mike Skipper, Winston County

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Weather Summary From March 11, 1996 to March 17, 1996 For Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Ave Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Ave	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Ave	
1. Upper Delta													
Clarksdale	78	31								66	38		
Cleveland	80	26	56			0.42		1	2.75				
Tunica	79	22	52	53	-1	0.27	-1.06	2	1.83	65	43	53	
Extreme/Average	80	22	54	53	+0	0.35	-0.98	2	2.29	66	38	53	
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs	77	19	52	51	+1	0.23	-1.13	2	3.38	65	36	51	
Memphis	78	28	58	54	+4	0.09	-1.26	2	4.01				
Oxford	78	18	54	52	+1	0.84	-0.86	1	3.34				
Extreme/Average	78	18	55	53	+2	0.32	-1.08	2	3.58	65	36	51	
3. Northeast													
Booneville	75	24	53	53	-1	0.67	-1.00	2	3.94				
Corinth	80	20	54	53	+1	0.43	-1.31	1	3.69				
Iuka	75	16	49			0.80		1	5.18				
Pontotoc	78	22	54	53	+1	0.09	-1.61	1	4.30	71	38	53	0.17
Tupelo	80	23	56	54	+2	0.11	-1.67	2	3.07				
Verona	80	22	58			0.03		1	1.28	67	34	51	0.16
Extreme/Average	80	16	54	54	+1	0.36	-1.36	1	3.58	71	34	52	0.17
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	82	24	57	57	+1	0.00	-1.56	0	1.56	76	43	59	
Greenwood	80	26	61	57	+5	0.00	-1.62	0	0.33				
Rolling Fork	84	25	57			0.02	-1.22	1	1.38	79	44	62	
Stoneville	82	25	57	55	+2	0.10	-1.27	1	0.77	66	40	54	
Yazoo City	83	22	58	58	-0	0.00	-1.61	0	1.49				
Extreme/Average	84	22	58	57	+1	0.02	-1.46	0	1.11	79	40	58	
5. Central													
Carthage	83	23	57	57	+1	1.60	+0.19	1	2.78				
Jackson	80	26	60	58	+2	0.16	-1.12	1	4.07				
Winona	79	17	52	53	-1	0.00	-1.47	0	1.64				
Extreme/Average	83	17	56	56	+0	0.59	-0.80	1	2.83				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville	83	30	59			0.00	-1.39	0	3.70				
Columbus	82	26	59			0.00		0	2.63				
State University	81	20	53	56	-3	0.00	-1.41	0	2.71	70	35	53	
Extreme/Average	83	20	57	56	+1	0.00	-1.40	0	3.01	70	35	53	
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs													
Natchez	80	27	62	61	+1	0.00	-1.17	0	2.83				
Oakley	80	22	62			0.21	-0.98	1	2.95	72	38	60	
Vicksburg	79	25	57			0.00		0	1.06				
Extreme/Average	80	22	60	61	-0	0.07	-1.11	0	2.28	72	38	60	
8. South-Central													
Columbia	83	26	60	61	-1	0.02	-1.03	1	3.87				
McComb	83	28	62	60	+2	0.01	-1.29	1	1.99				
Extreme/Average	83	26	61	60	+0	0.02	-1.16	1	2.93				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	82	28	56			2.33		1	6.68	73	38	56	
Hattiesburg	82	23	58	60	-2	0.79	-0.31	1	6.39				
Laurel													
Meridian	80	23	59	58	+1	0.25	-1.18	1	6.44				
Newton	81	21	56	57	-1	0.50	-0.65	2	6.22	68	38	54	0.16
Extreme/Average	82	21	57	58	-1	0.97	-0.26	1	6.43	73	38	55	0.16
10. Coastal													
Bay St. Louis	81	22	58			0.00		0	2.61				
Biloxi	78	34	63			0.00	-0.71	0	1.17				
Gulfport	78	31	60	62	-2	0.06	-0.99	1	2.24				
Pascagoula	76	28	56	62	-6	0.01	-1.02	1	1.61				
Poplarville	81	27	59	62	-3	1.02	-0.07	1	5.81	73	47	60	0.16
Extreme/Average	81	22	59	62	-2	0.22	-0.75	1	2.69	73	47	60	0.16
State	84	16	57	57	+0	0.29	-1.04	1	3.07	79	34	55	0.16

Abbreviations: DFN = Departure from Normal

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